

Directorate honors top military personnel

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — 1st Lt. Benjamin B. Montgomery, Master Sgt John P. Connelly and Tech Sgt. John F. Babcock have been named recipients of annual military awards at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate.

Montgomery, deputy program manager for Information for Global Reach Program, was named Company Grade Officer of the Year. A native of Wrentham, Mass., he entered the Air Force in July 1999, following commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Boston University.

He was cited for numerous accomplishments in the Global Reach program, designed to enhance the capabilities of the Air Mobility Command, as well as a variety of activities including the AFRL Rome Research Site disaster preparedness program and the annual Team Patriot exercise that provides field experience to science and engineering officers.

A graduate of Northeastern University, with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, the lieutenant is pursuing a master's of engineering degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has been assigned to Rome since July 2001.

Connelly, an electronic intelligence analyst in the directorate's Information and Intelligence Exploitation Division, was selected as the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

A native of Champlain, N.Y., and a 17-year Air Force veteran, Connelly was recognized for his leadership as the single manager of the directorate's Ground & Airborne Evaluation Facilities, as well as his involvement in community events. He is currently pursuing a degree in applied communications technology from the Community College of the Air Force.

Babcock, who serves as a command and control operations consultant in the Information Systems Division, was named recipient of the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year award.

A Vermont native and 12-year member of the Air Force, Babcock was cited for his leadership in command and control technology development, as well as efforts in support of the Combined Federal Campaign and the Rome Enlisted Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baker College, Flint, Mich., and is currently working towards a master's in business administration from the same institution. @